

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1972

ELLIS TAYLOR :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME :

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Mayor (COUNCILLOR E. BROWN, (Mrs.), C.C.) ex-officio.

Chairman:

Councillor J. WILD

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor V. E. ROYLE

Members:

Alderman H. BRINDLE

Alderman J. A. DEAN

Alderman J. W. GEERE, J.P., C.A.

Alderman J. M. WHITE

Councillor W. R. BRANKLEY

Councillor C. B. CALLAGHAN, J.P.

Councillor J. CROWDER

Councillor W. HARDMAN

Councillor S. HILL

Councillor E. LIGHTBOWN

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. B. LLOYD, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C. R. WALSH, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30.4.72)

J. G. SIMM, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 6.11.72)

Technical Assistants:

J. POWELL (Resigned 2.10.72)

M. J. ARMITAGE (Appointed 30.10.72)

Clerks:

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR (Resigned 8.11.72)

Mrs. C. L. SHARP (Resigned 30.4.72)

Miss J. M. GREENHALGH (Appointed 5.6.72)

Mrs. M. HOLLAND (Appointed 4.12.72)

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	1,504 statute acres
Population	26,410 Estimated mid-1972
	26,830 Census 1971
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1931	7,104
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1961	9,119
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1972	9,369
Rateable Value	£807,698
Sum represented by a penny rate	£7,450

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1972. In spite of significant staff changes involving professional and clerical staff the through-put of work in the Department was maintained at a high level.

The attack on the bad aspects of the environment continued with success—slum clearance and smoke control bearing the brunt of attention.

The population of the Borough revealed an upward trend—an increase of 140. The birth rate declined to a more realistic figure of 16.1 compared with a national figure of 14.8.

I would like to draw your attention to comments made by Mr. Wolstenholme on Clean Air, Housing and Staff, with which I would wish to be associated.

I am indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their understanding and forbearance, and grateful to my colleagues in the Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

ELLIS TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

	Farnworth		England & Wales (Total!)	
	Males	Females	Total	
Estimated mid-year home population	—	—	26,410	49,028,900
Live Births:				
Total	198	211	409	725,405
Legitimate	181	183	364	662,907
Illegitimate	17	28	45	62,498
Stillbirths:				
Total	5	4	9	8,794
Legitimate	5	2	7	7,846
Illegitimate	—	2	2	948
Total Live and Still Births:				
Total	203	215	418	734,199
Legitimate	186	185	371	670,753
Illegitimate	17	30	47	63,446
Deaths of Infants:				
Under 1 year of age.				
Total	3	7	10	12,494
Legitimate	3	6	9	11,177
Illegitimate	—	1	1	1,317
Under 4 weeks of age.				
Total	2	5	7	8,373
Legitimate	2	4	6	7,503
Illegitimate	—	1	1	870
Under 1 week of age.				
Total	2	3	5	7,142
Legitimate	2	3	5	6,365
Illegitimate	—	—	—	777
Deaths—all ages:	203	237	440	591,907

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

England
Farnworth and Wales

Live Birth Rates, etc.

Live births per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	15.5	14.8
Area comparability factor	1.04	1.00
Local adjusted rate	16.1	14.8
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.09	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	11	9

Stillbirth rate:

Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	22	12
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Infant Mortality Rates:

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	24	17
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	25	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	22	21

Neonatal Mortality Rate:

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	17	12
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Early Neonatal Mortality Rate:

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	12	10
---	----	----

Perinatal Mortality Rate:

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	33	22
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Death Rates, etc. — All Ages:

Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	16.7	12.1
Area comparability factor .....	.81	1.00
Local adjusted rate	13.5	12.1
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.12	1.00

The long continuing slow decline in population was halted this year and the Registrar General estimated a mid-year population of 26,410—an increase of 140.

There were 69 fewer births and 2 fewer infant deaths compared with 1971.

The causes of death in all ages in 1972 are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1972

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	2	2
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases...	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemias ...	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Anaemias ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of the Blood, etc.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of the Blood, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1972 (continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years							75 and over	
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Hypertensive Disease ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	20	14
	F	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	9	21
Other forms of Heart Disease ...	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	9	12
	F	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	13	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	12
	F	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	34
Influenza ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia ...	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	10
	F	28	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	21
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	M	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	11	8
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2
Asthma ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer ...	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Reference was made last year to a grumbling outbreak of meningitis in the Borough. Five cases were notified in 1972 and happily all recovered. Four cases occurred in children under 3 years and in only one instance was the meningococcus isolated. Three of the five cases were caused by a virus. Measles was rather more significant than expected with 89 cases notified—all under age 10 years.

Details of infectious diseases notified during the year 1972 are given in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1972

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS—YEARS											Age un-known	Total Deaths	
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over					
Measles (excluding rubella)	89	5	14	7	18	10	35	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dysentery	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Scarlet Fever	16	—	—	2	2	3	4	3	2	—	—	—	—		
Diphtheria	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Acute meningitis	5	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Acute poliomyelitis paralytic	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Non-paralytic	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
		0-	5-	15-	45-	65 & over	Age un-known								
Acute encephalitis															
Infective	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Post-infectious ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Leptospirosis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Typhoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Food poisoning	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Age un-known
Tetanus	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective jaundice	7	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	Nil	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	—
Anthrax	Nil	—
Yellow fever	Nil	—
Others	Nil	—

No. of cases of fatal tuberculosis not notified before death—4

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND HEALTH

The town continued to be well served by many active voluntary bodies concerned with improving and maintaining the health and happiness of the community. They have all extended and consolidated their services and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Corporation on behalf of the townsfolk.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

There was no need to invoke this Act during the year.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE—HEARING AIDS

By arrangement with Bolton and District Hospital Management Committee, local people with National Health Service hearing aids are able to get replacement parts and batteries from Farnworth Health Department. This saves them the journey to Bolton Royal Infirmary, where they would have to go otherwise.

The number of attendances by people taking advantage of this arrangement in 1972 was 1,039. Since the scheme was introduced in July, 1969, a total of 2,920 replacements have been made at Farnworth.

HOUSING

The general condition of housing in the Borough continued to improve during the year, although much remains to be done to rid the town of its inheritance of sub-standard terraced cottages, built a hundred or more years ago to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing population resulting from the expansion of industry which occurred at that time.

In 1972, 116 houses were demolished, bringing the total number of houses demolished under Clearance Area procedure in the past fifteen years to over 1,100. The houses demolished in 1972 were mainly in the Oak Street-Ash Street-Spring Street Area.

A report on the Borough's older housing submitted to the Council during the year estimated that the stock of 5,150 privately-owned houses was made up of the following categories:

Houses being dealt with under Clearance procedure	387
Houses in current Clearance Programme	400
Houses likely to be considered for future clearance or possible improvement	1,040
Improved or improveable houses	2,173
Modern or new houses	1,150

At the date of the report (November 1972) it was estimated that the total number of unfit houses in the Borough was 1,464.

Six Clearance Areas were officially represented to the Council during the year:

	No. of Unfit Houses
Clearance Area	
Brackley Street (No. 1) Clearance Area ...	2
Brackley Street (No. 2) Clearance Area ...	7
Elizabeth Street-Price Street (No. 1) Clearance Area	40
Elizabeth Street-Price Street (No. 2) Clearance Area	25
Almond Street (No. 1) Clearance Area ...	2
Almond Street (No. 2) Clearance Area ...	4
	—
	80
	—

Most of these houses are in the Elizabeth Street-Price Street Area, which was surveyed early in the year and covers the first phase of the Clearance Programme approved by the Council at the end of 1970. Survey work on phase 2 of the Programme was due to start in the summer but was delayed until November by staffing difficulties.

Two official Inquiries were held during the year as a result of objections made to the Council's Clearance Proposals. In June there was an Inquiry into the Town Centre Clearance Scheme, on which representations were submitted in 1970. The Scheme was subsequently confirmed by the Department of the Environment, with modifications. The other Inquiry, in July, was into the Lee Street-Lorne Street Scheme, which was later confirmed without modification.

At the end of 1972, the following houses in represented Clearance Areas were awaiting demolition:

Clearance Area	No. of Houses
Arthur Street/Bridgewater Street	60
Brackley Street/Ellesmere Street	29
Brackley Street/Bridgewater Street No. 1 (amended)	40
Bridgewater Street No. 1	7
Bridgewater Street No. 2	18
Brackley Street/Bridgewater Street No. 2 (amended)	32
Ellesmere Street	2
Ellesmere Street/Kent Street	73
Westminster Street/Northumberland Street	75
Darley Street No. 2	5
Lee Street No. 1	3
Lee Street No. 2	2
Lee Street/Lorne Street No. 1	48
Lorne Street No. 2	3
Brackley Street No. 1	2
Brackley Street No. 2	7
Elizabeth Street/Price Street No. 1	40
Elizabeth Street/Price Street No. 2	25
Almond Street No. 1	2
Almond Street No. 2	4

During the year 139 new dwellings were built in the Borough, 94 by the Corporation and 45 by private builders. 85 privately-owned houses were improved with the aid of Discretionary or Standard Improvement Grants, and 23 Council-owned pre-war houses were up-dated. In March, the proportion of grant payable to house-owners for approved improvements was advanced from fifty per cent to seventy-five per cent of the cost, resulting in an increase in the number of applications and inquiries for grant and a consequent addition to the work-load of the Corporation's Building Inspectors, whose duties include the assessment of grant applications and the supervision of improvement work.

In the year under review, the Public Health Inspectors recorded 398 visits for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Public Health Acts relating to the repair of housing defects in privately-owned rented houses. Fewer visits under this heading are now needed because of the disappearance of the oldest houses under Clearance schemes and the rising proportion of owner-occupied houses.

Housing statistics for the year 1972 are as follows:

1. Housing Stock

Number of privately-owned houses at 31st December, 1972	5150
--	------

Number of local authority-owned houses at
31st December, 1972:

(a) Built by local authority	3849
(b) Acquired by local authority	217
	<hr/>
	9216
	<hr/>

2. New Houses Built

Completed in 1972:

	Houses	Flats
(a) By local authority	14	80
(b) By private builders	45	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59	80
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	139	
	<hr/>	

3. Houses Acquired

Number of houses acquired by the local authority
in 1972 (other than by Compulsory Purchase) ... 15

4. Houses Demolished

Number of unfit houses demolished in 1972 93
Number of other houses demolished in 1972 ... 23

116

5. Persons Displaced by Demolition

Number of persons displaced from demolished
houses in 1972 326

6. Unfit Houses

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining at
31st December, 1972:

(a) in represented Clearance Areas 482

(b) not yet represented 982

1464

7. Housing Improvements

Number of applications for Improvement Grant
received in 1972 75

Number of applications for Improvement Grant
approved in 1972 75

8. Repair of Privately-Owned Houses

Number of privately-owned houses repaired in
1972 as a result of action by local authority ... 47

Table 3 shows the number of houses erected and demolished
each year since 1946.

TABLE 3.

Houses (including flats) erected and demolished

Year	Erected		Demolished
	By local authority	By private builders	
1946	95	—	—
1947	164	—	—
1948	146	—	4
1949	55	—	—
1950	122	—	—
1951	38	—	—
1952	75	5	—
1953	84	9	9
1954	156	1	—
1955	102	2	13
1956	84	2	—
1957	98	10	4
1958	34	4	71
1959	—	1	3
1960	24	6	75
1961	106	58	32
1962	22	57	55
1963	51	8	102
1964	53	9	28
1965	34	48	29
1966	46	31	58
1967	58	27	59
1968	32	53	102
1969	56	119	107
1970	70	66	146
1971	207	123	118
1972	94	45	116
	2,106	684	1,131
	2,790		

CLEAN AIR

Further progress was made during the year towards reducing the amount of air pollution in the Borough. The Council's Smoke Control Programme is planned to cover the whole town by 1978. Since work on the Programme started in 1966, five Smoke Control Orders have been brought into operation and three further Orders are in varying stages of implementation. The Nos. 6 and 7 Orders are due to become operative in 1973 and the No. 8 Order in 1974. These eight Orders will cover about six thousand premises over a combined area of more than a thousand acres—approximately two-thirds of the Borough. If this rate of progress can be maintained from 1974 onwards, there is a good chance that the town will be smokeless by the target date.

The No. 5 Smoke Control Order came into operation in July of the year under review. This Order affects only a relatively small number of existing premises, because many of the houses in the area concerned are due for clearance and have for that reason been exempted from the operation of the Order. But the Order is important in that it covers an area in the Town Centre where large-scale redevelopment will take place, and it will apply to all new buildings to be erected in the area.

As reported last year, the No. 6 (Highfield) Order, which was first submitted in October, 1971, had to be redrafted because of difficulties in programming conversions in Council-houses. The Order was revised and resubmitted in April, confirmed in December, and is due to come into operation in August, 1973.

The area to be covered by the No. 7 Order, in the eastern part of the Borough, was surveyed at the beginning of the year and the Draft Order submitted in August. This Order is expected to be confirmed in the Spring of 1973 with an operative date of 1st November, 1973. The proposed No. 8 Area was surveyed later in the year in preparation for submission early in 1973.

As in previous years, measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere were made daily at two sites in the Borough, measuring equipment being provided by the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution, and operated by the Department's Staff. Acknowledgement is due to the Consultative Committee, and also to the Lancashire County Council for permission to operate measuring equipment at Wilfred Geere House.

Table 4 gives the 1972 monthly averages of daily recordings at the two measuring sites, and Table 5 shows annual averages since 1962. It can be seen that there has been a consistent reduction of smoke pollution, particularly at the Wilfred Geere House site, which is in the smoke controlled part of the town. At that site, the amount of smoke pollution recorded in 1972 was little more than a tenth of the amount recorded ten years ago. At the other site, where domestic smoke control has not yet been introduced, smoke pollution is about a third of the 1962 figure. Measurements of sulphur dioxide also show significant reductions, although these are not on the same scale as smoke reductions because not all smokeless fuels are sulphur-free.

Because of electricity power cuts in February, the recording equipment was out of action for a short period in that month, and no figures were obtained for October due to Departmental staffing difficulties.

The measurement of air pollution by local authority Health Departments tends to be regarded as a fairly recent activity, resulting from the interest created by the 1954 Beaver Report on the Nature, Causes and Effects of Air Pollution and the consequent Clean Air Act of 1956. It is interesting, therefore, to find that air pollution measurements were being made in Farnworth more than a hundred years ago. The minutes of the Farnworth Local Board of Health dated 28th January, 1870, include the following:

“The Clerk reported that in consequence of the public inconvenience caused by the noxious effluvia arising from the bad sulphur and other poisonous chemicals discharged from the several Alkali works situate near to the Farnworth District, he had communicated with the Government Inspector on the subject, and that the Inspector had furnished him with a small stone bason with certain chemicals therein and requested that the same might be affixed in some safe and convenient place, out of doors, so as to receive the chemicals floating in the atmosphere during the period of one month, in order to enable the Government Inspector to ascertain the quantity of Muriatic Acid or other noxious gases thrown into the air from the said works during that period”. It was resolved by the Local Board “that the said Bason be affixed to the Flag Pole over the Board Room premises”.

The Department's efforts towards cleaner air continued to be well supported by industry. Most of the town's factories are using smokeless fuel, and those burning coal have installed plant which operates with a minimum of smoke emission. It is unusual nowadays to see a Farnworth factory chimney smoking.

Occasional smoke nuisance was caused during the year by the burning of demolition materials on clearance sites, but these incidents were of short duration and demolition contractors were generally co-operative.

Over the past few years the urban environment has been greatly improved in many ways; not the least successful and effective feature of this improvement has been the reduction in atmospheric smoke resulting from the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

It is appropriate in this section of the Report to record that in the early part of 1972 a serious shortage of solid fuel occurred, due to a strike in the coal-mining industry. One effect of this shortage was that the Department was called upon to issue certificates to householders in priority categories to enable them to obtain supplies of fuel. During January and February the Department issued 177 of these priority certificates.

TABLE 4.
Monthly Averages

Month 1972	Average of daily recordings—shown as microgrammes of pollutant per cubic metre of air			
	Smoke		Sulphur Dioxide	
	Town Hall	Wilfred Geere House	Town Hall	Wilfred Geere House
January	248	66	202	102
February	133	59	217	115
March	105	39	174	106
April	42	17	89	32
May	61	26	113	76
June	37	15	74	48
July	29	17	78	55
August	30	15	71	47
September	90	41	122	92
October	—	—	—	—
November	144	66	162	105
December	254	43	199	135

TABLE 5.
Annual Averages

Year (January— December)	Smoke		Sulphur Dioxide	
	Town Hall	Wilfred Geere House	Town Hall	Wilfred Geere House
1962	351	340	365	386
1963	275	294	302	285
1964	250	257	251	219
1965	187	193	173	160
1966	159	155	156	168
1967	149	120	155	164
1968	120	74	157	154
1969	148	45	168	70
1970	121	55	164	104
1971	109	52	170	111
1972	107	37	136	83

FOOD

The number of food premises of various types in the Borough are listed in Table 6. In addition to these there are several market stalls from which food is sold.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 1,156 visits to food premises, as well as slaughterhouse visits which are recorded in a separate section of the Report. If good hygiene standards are to be maintained in shops, restaurants, food factories, markets and other food trading premises, regular visiting by the Inspectors is essential. Unfortunately, when staff is depleted, other jobs claim priority and routine food hygiene work suffers.

The Inspectors made 113 visits in 1972 for the purpose of examining food as to its fitness for consumption. The total amount found to be unfit was 7,944 lbs., comprising:

	lbs.
Cooked meat and meat products	100
Canned meat	1030
Other canned foods	4509
Fresh fruit and vegetables	56
Frozen food	2249
	<hr/> 7944 <hr/>

This was surrendered to the Inspectors and destroyed. There was no need during the year for the Inspectors to invoke their statutory powers to seize any unfit food.

Satisfactory food hygiene standards on the town's market were maintained. No unwrapped food (except fruit and vegetables) is allowed to be sold from open market stalls, and facilities provided for market traders encourage good standards of personal cleanliness. Again it has to be reported that no tangible progress was made in replacing the out-dated and unsatisfactory market fish stalls.

During the year 13 complaints were received by the Department from members of the public in respect of the content or quality of food purchased in the Borough. In eight instances the food was mouldy or stale, and in five cases it contained extraneous material. All the complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Enforcement of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts relating to adulteration, quality and labelling of foodstuffs is the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, whose officers took 151 samples in the Borough in 1972. Details are given in Table 7.

TABLE 6.
FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END OF 1972

<i>Type of business</i>	(a) No. of premises	(b) No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16. (Wash-hand basins)	(c) No. of premises to which Regula- tion 19 applies (Sinks).	(d) No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
(i) Grocers and provision dealers	84	84	84	84
(ii) Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	17	17	17	17
(iii) Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	2	2	2	2
(iv) Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	33	33	33	33
(v) Bakers and/or confectioners	30	30	30	30
(vi) Fried fish shops	25	25	25	25
(vii) Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	35	35	35	35
(viii) Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, res- taurants, cafes, snack bars, and similar catering establishments	56	56	56	56

TABLE 7.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1972:

Milk	93
Other articles	58

The 58 other articles comprised:—

1 Brown Bread	1 Beans in Tomato Sauce, canned
1 Starch Reduced Biscuits	1 Mackerel, canned
1 Children's Cold Remedy	1 Tomatoes, canned
1 Antiseptic Ointment	1 Meat Pudding, canned
1 Beef Burger	1 Gravy Browning
1 Analgesic Tablets	1 Biscuits
1 Tapioca Milk Pudding, canned	1 Flour Confectionery
1 Tuna in Oil, canned	1 Tea
1 Oxtail Soup Mixture, dry	2 Sweets
1 Liver and Bacon Pate	1 Desiccated Coconut
1 Grapefruit Juice, canned	1 Rose Hip Syrup
1 Prawns, canned	1 Laxative (Liver Salts)
1 Milk, Condensed Full Cream, Unsweetened	1 Cremosuxidine Suspension
1 Apple Sauce, canned	1 Blackcurrant Drink
1 Drinking Chocolate	1 Beef Curry with Rice, canned ready meal
1 Beef Sausages	1 Gooseberries, canned
2 Pork Sausages	1 Fish, canned
1 Minced Meat	1 Junior Meal, canned
1 Distaquaine V-K Suspension	1 Chicken and Ham Paste
2 Lettuce	1 Sweets
1 Mushrooms	1 Fruit Loaf
1 Celery	1 Cheese Spread
1 Double Cream	1 Fresh Minced Meat
1 Jam	1 Cooked Turkey
2 Fruit, canned	1 Popcorn
1 Beans in Salted Water, canned	1 Bread
	2 Orange Drinks

Details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports are as follows:

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 0.8% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 0.8% extraneous water.	Further samples obtained
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 0.8% extraneous water.	Further samples obtained
Drinking Chocolate	Tropical Warehouse moth (Ephestia cantella) weighing 3 m.grms. (length 9 m.ms.) together with insect webbing and frass (mostly adjacent to a cocoon containing pupal remains) weight 58 m.grms.	Manufacturer cautioned complainant informed.
Pork Sausage	Lean Meat 28.5% Fat 40.5% <hr/> Total Meat 69.0%	Vendor interviewed and cautioned.
	Pork Sausage should contain not less than 32.5% lean meat and not less than 65.0% total meat.	
Lettuce	Contained Penta Chlornitrobenzene 6.8 part per million Netherlands limit for Penta Chlornitrobenzene on lettuce 3 p.p.m.	Unable to trace source, therefore, no action.
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 0.5% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned, further samples obtained.
Double Cream	Butter fat content 48.8%. Only labelled "Double Cream" from 1st March, 1972, should also have borne the word "Pasteurised".	Vendor communicated with.
Informal Milk	Fat content 2.80% Deficient 6.6% fat	Producer informed.
Informal Milk	Fat content 1.65% Deficient 4.5% fat	Producer cautioned.

Formal Milk	Fat	3.40%	Dairy cautioned.
	Milk Solids not fat	8.45%	
	Water	88.15%	
		<u>100.00%</u>	
	contained not less than 3.5% extraneous water.		
Rose Hip Syrup	Vitamin C content only 30 m.gr/ fluid ounce compared with 67 m.gr. declared—appearance of old stock but no harmful ingredients present.		Complainant and manufacturer informed.
Laxative (Liver Salts)	Contained 200 p.p.m. of petro- leum hydrocarbons with the nature of a light fuel oil, equiva- lent to 45 m.grms. in the whole tin.		Complainant and packers informed.
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 1.8% extraneous water.		Dairy cautioned, further sample obtained.
Sweets	One of the sweets contained a chip (not a splinter) of hard- wood weighing 0.077 gm.		Complainant informed, manu- facturer cautioned.
Remains of Orange Drink	Contained part of a dead leaf (weighing 20 m.gr.) in 1½ c.cs. of rinsings containing only one tenth (by volume) of drink.		Complainant informed, manu- facturer cautioned about atmospheric contamination.
Unopened Bottle of Orange Drink	Contained fused silica material with minute inclusions of carbon and metallic aluminium (of unknown origin) weighing 0.02 gr. — insoluble — and had not affected the drink.		Complainant informed, manu- facturer cautioned about atmospheric contamination.

MILK AND ICE CREAM

At the end of the year there were 151 milk distributors and 154 ice-cream dealers on the Department's registers. Most of the persons registered are shopkeepers selling sterilised milk or pre-packed ice-cream. One is registered as an ice-cream manufacturer.

The statutory licensing authority for milk producers and dealers is the Lancashire County Council, whose officers took 93 samples in Farnworth during 1972. These samples were examined for quality and bacteriological purity; eight were found to be sub-standard. Details are given in Table 7.

MEAT INSPECTION

Only one small private slaughterhouse was licensed in the Borough during the year. This slaughterhouse closed on the 1st August, 1972.

The total number of animals slaughtered from the beginning of the year until the slaughterhouse closed was 967, and the number of visits made by the Inspectors was 197.

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, the carcasses and organs of all animals slaughtered were examined by the Public Health Inspectors at the time of slaughter or soon afterwards. The animals were generally of good quality and little evidence of disease was found. Details of animals slaughtered and incidence of disease are given in Table 8.

TABLE 8.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Carcases inspected and incidence of disease

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	172	Nil	11	784	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	172	Nil	11	784	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :-						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	Nil	Nil	7	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	3.5%	Nil	Nil	0.89%	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only:--						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the Borough has a piped supply of mains water supplied by Bolton Corporation Waterworks Department. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply.

Samples of both raw and treated water were taken regularly during the year by the Waterworks Department and subjected to full bacteriological and chemical analysis. Special examinations and analyses were made as circumstances required. 689 samples of raw water were taken from the various supply sources and subjected to bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis. 24 samples were subjected to full chemical analysis. Additionally, 1,242 samples of filtered and treated water received bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis, and 32 were given full chemical analysis. The results showed that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B.Coli being absent in 97.91 per cent of the potable water samples tested.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action. Since 1971, the method of testing for lead content has been changed to incorporate a greater degree of accuracy.

In 1972, 392 metres of new water mains were laid by the Waterworks Department in the Borough, mostly to new property.

PUBLIC BATHS

As reported last year, the town's Public Baths are due for replacement and a scheme for new Baths is in preparation.

The continuing popularity of the Baths is shown by the year's attendance figures—there were 86,668 admissions to the swimming pool and 10,936 people used the slipper baths. These figures are very similar to those recorded in 1971.

In addition to routine daily sampling and testing of the swimming pool water by the Baths Staff, the Public Health Inspectors took 22 samples for bacteriological examination during the year. The results were generally satisfactory.

DRAINAGE

All new drainage schemes are supervised by the Corporation's Building Inspectors. Alterations and repairs to existing drainage are supervised by the Public Health Inspectors. Where practicable, all new drainage work is subjected to smoke or water test before approval.

During the year, 281 visits were recorded by Health Department staff in connection with drainage works.

SEWERAGE

Virtually all premises in the Borough are connected to the town's sewerage system.

Much of the main sewerage system has been renewed in recent years. During the year under review a length of sewer in the New Bury area, which had been affected by subsidence, was replaced by a new 600 yard long eighteen-inch sewer.

Sewage disposal is the responsibility of the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board. The town's sewage is piped to the Board's Works at Ringley, where it is treated to an acceptable standard before being discharged into the River Irwell.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

All sanitary accommodation in the Borough is on the fresh water system. There are no waste water closets or pail closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Corporation's Cleansing Services are controlled by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Weekly collections of domestic refuse were maintained throughout most of the year, and trade refuse from commercial and industrial premises was collected as often as necessary.

Special collections of discarded household items, too bulky to go into dustbins, continued during the year. This service, which is undertaken free of charge, discourages the dumping of old beds, prams, furniture, etc., on waste ground—a problem which has become prevalent in recent years.

About 11,250 dustbins were emptied each week, and some 7,500 tons of refuse were collected during the year. All Farnworth's refuse is disposed of at Bolton Corporation's Refuse Disposal Works, mainly by incineration.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Town Centre public conveniences, completed at the beginning of 1971, were again very well used and greatly appreciated. Staff are in attendance from morning to evening on six days a week, and consequently the conveniences are less affected by vandalism than the unattended conveniences in other parts of the town.

The Bolton Road conveniences were modernised and renovated during the year, and the opportunity was taken to open up the area around them so as to discourage misuse. The operation seems to have been worthwhile.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

This work engaged the full-time services of the Department's Rodent Operative throughout the year. In all, 526 requests for treatment against rodents and pests were received and dealt with during 1972. A wide range of pests was encountered, including rats, mice, rabbits, fleas, bugs, wasps, bees, silverfish, beetles, cockroaches, crickets and flies.

In addition to dealing with surface infestations of rats, the Operative supervised the treatment with fluoracetamide poison of 1,100 sewer manholes, which was done by a specialist firm of contractors. Poisoning of rats in the sewers is an essential part of rodent control work.

Details of rodent control inspections and treatments carried out in 1972 are given in Tables 9 and 10.

TABLE 9.

RODENT CONTROL

Properties other than sewers

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district	10,929	3
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	621	-
(c) Number of (b) infested by —		
rats	187	-
mice	296	-
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and / or mice for reasons other than notification	115	-
(e) Number of (d) infested by —		
rats	27	-
mice	-	-

TABLE 10.

SEWER TREATMENTS

Dates of Treatment	Number of Sewer Manholes Treated
June, July and August, 1972 ...	1,100

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 126 factories within the Borough. Of these 122 are provided with mechanical power.

Most of the inspection and enforcement work in factories is done by H.M. Factory Inspectorate. During the year 38 factory visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

The prescribed particulars on administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Department of Employment and Productivity are given in Table 11.

TABLE 11.
FACTORIES ACT, 1961
PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1972.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	4	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	122	35	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	2	-	-
Total ...	128	40	-	-

2—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted— (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making of Wearing Apparel	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Paper Work	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PET SHOPS

Five premises are licensed as Pet Shops under the Pet Animals Act 1951. All the premises were visited during the year and found satisfactory.

BOARDING KENNELS

One establishment in the Borough was licensed at the beginning of the year under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963. The premises closed during the year.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are no premises in the Borough licensed as Riding Establishments under the Riding Establishments Acts, 1964 and 1970.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

At the end of the year there were 206 premises on the register required to be kept under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Table 12 gives details of the types of premises registered, and Table 13 gives the numbers of persons employed in these premises—a total of 1,104.

In 1972 the number of visits to registered premises was 117, 93 of which were general inspections. This is a considerable increase over the figures for 1971, when because of staff shortages only 24 general inspections could be made. Table 14 gives details of contraventions found during the year.

The Act requires occupiers of registered premises to notify the occurrence of accidents causing injury to their employees. In 1972 only two minor accidents were reported, neither of which warranted any action being taken.

TABLE 12.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole-sale shops, ware-houses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year.	35	129	11	30	1
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.	24	57	7	5	-
Number of exemptions current at end of year:					
Space (S.5.(2))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temperature (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Washing facilities (S.10)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE 13

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	208
Retail Shops	566
Wholesale departments, warehouses	148
Catering establishments open to public	165
Canteens	8
Fuel storage depots	9
Total	1104
Total Males	450
Total Females	654

TABLE 14.

Analysis of Contraventions found in Registered Premises
during 1972

Contraventions	Number Found
Cleanliness	2
Ventilation	1
Lighting	5
Sanitary conveniences	2
Washing facilities	3
First aid	4
	<hr/>
	17
	<hr/>

DISPOSAL OF TOXIC WASTE

The Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972 came into operation during the year. Its purpose is to prevent the disposal of poisonous, noxious or polluting waste in circumstances which could give rise to environmental hazard.

The Act has two main features: it makes it an offence to deposit poisonous waste so as to cause danger to persons or animals or pollution of water supplies, and it introduces a system by which local authorities have to be notified by anyone who intends to dispose of poisonous waste by tipping.

During the year the Department investigated several reports of poisonous waste being deposited indiscriminately. On three occasions chemical containers were discovered dumped in various parts of the town, but they were found to be empty and innocuous.

Two instances occurred where dangerous acid had spilled from parked tanker vehicles. In both cases it was necessary, in the interests of public safety and to minimise possible damage to the sewerage system, to hose down the areas affected and neutralise the acid.

CARAVANS

Reports in previous years have referred to the problems of dealing with so-called gypsy caravans settling in various parts of the town. This problem recurred in 1972. In March, a colony of five caravans with their attendant families set up camp on land owned by the Corporation near Hall Lane.

The caravanners failed to heed warnings to leave the site and arrangements had to be made to evict them. This proved to be a most difficult job for the Department's Officers.

The gypsies refused to leave and had the vociferous support of a group of about twenty protesting University students, some of whom were not averse to joining the caravanners in using physical violence. The unpleasant affair lasted more than two hours, during which time there were skirmishes with gypsy women and children, the Council's officers were repeatedly assaulted, and a student was arrested by the Police before the caravans were finally moved off.

The comment must be made that this sort of operation—necessary though it may be—is hardly the kind of work for which Health Department staff are employed.

Later in the year, in August, a further intrusion took place. Eight caravans arrived on the same site, to be joined later by others. By the time arrangements had been made to evict the caravans there were more than twenty on the site. Fortunately, they left voluntarily after a stay of four days.

Three authorised sites in the Borough were used during the year as winter quarters for the caravans and equipment of members of the Showmen's Guild and their families. Many of these people are natives of Farnworth and district, and by tradition have for many years returned to the town for their winter break from travelling to fairgrounds around the country.

The sites, which hold a total of perhaps forty caravans at their peak, are of a semi-permanent character, having mains water supply, electricity and drainage facilities. They are generally well-ordered, and from the public health standpoint are relatively innocuous. From a town planning point of view, however, there must be doubts as to their acceptability, at least in their present form, in the future.

STAFF

For the second year in succession the Department suffered from periods of understaffing. Several staff changes occurred during the year, with the result that although the Department was fully staffed at the end of the year, four of its six members had been recently appointed and were new to the Department and to the town. In a small Department this does not make for continuity of work, and credit is due to all concerned in that a reasonably satisfactory working year was achieved in what were at times very difficult circumstances.

The staff changes were as follows: Mr. C. R. Walsh, Public Health Inspector, left in April and was replaced in November by Mr. J. G. Simm; Mr. J. Powell, Technical Assistant, left in October and was replaced in November by Mr. M. J. Armitage; Mrs. C. L. Sharp, Clerk-Typist, left in April and was replaced in June by Miss J. M. Greenhalgh; and Mrs. M. M. Taylor, Senior Clerk, left in November and was replaced in December by Mrs. M. Holland. Mention should be made of the sterling service given to the Department and to the Corporation by Mrs. Taylor over a period of many years.

Local Government is going through a difficult phase, with the impending upheaval of reorganisation already influencing the Authority's activities, and with staff in a state of uncertainty and suspense about their future with the new Bolton Metropolitan District Authority after April 1974.

Presumably the formulation of the new authority's structure will take account of modern management principles. Where these are likely to improve the quality of service to the public they are to be welcomed. There is a danger, however, of efficiency overtaking effectiveness—that the real needs of the community might be overlooked in attempting to achieve administrative efficiency. For example, a fully centralised Health Department, with all its staff operating from an office at the Authority's headquarters, might be administratively tidy and manageable; but would it be able to provide a quick, personalised service for a quarter of a million people in all parts of the 64 square miles of the new Authority's area?

Over the years, officers in the smaller Authorities have built up generally satisfactory working relationships with the communities they serve. The public throughout the new Authority's area will expect the same, or better standards of service after April, 1974. At a time when good relations between the Authority and the public are crucial, the value to the new Authority of these experienced officers should not be underestimated.

The role of Public Health Inspectors in reorganised local government is not yet clear. It will depend on the forms of administrative structure adopted and on the allocation of functions among Departments. Some of the duties traditionally carried out by Public Health Inspectors are attracting the interest of other professions—housing improvement and clearance, meat inspection, food and drugs control, and public cleansing are examples. The science of environmental protection and control has achieved new importance and status; it is no longer the exclusive province of the Public Health Department.

It should not be too much to expect that Public Health Inspectors, who for many years have been entrusted by local authorities with their statutory duties to improve the conditions under which ordinary people live and work, will be offered equal partnership with other professions in tackling the environmental problems of the new Authorities.

TABLE 15.

VISITS MADE DURING 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH

Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	398
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	412
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	418

HOUSING

Housing surveys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	468
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Qualification Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

FOOD AND DRUGS

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Confectioners shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Sweet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fish & Chip shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants, cafes and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Food hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

